

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces Recovery Act Support for Public Safety, Community Centers, Public Schools and Health Care Facilities

WASHINGTON, Sept., 1, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced investments in 28 states that will create jobs and improve needed infrastructure in rural communities across the nation. The projects are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act).

“These Recovery Act projects not only provide needed infrastructure in rural communities, they contribute to the Obama administration’s continued efforts to create quality jobs,” Vilsack said. “The Recovery Act is working. These projects, and others like them, are contributing to restore the American economy while improving the quality of life in towns and small cities throughout the country.”

USDA is assisting rural communities by providing assistance to healthcare facilities. For example, In Williston, N.D., Trinity Health has been selected to receive a \$5.5 million loan to construct a medical office building. By consolidating two existing clinics within an energy efficient building, Trinity Health will be able to provide improved health care service with easier access at a lower cost. Forty exam rooms will be provided with additional space allocated for radiology and laboratory services.

In Alaska’s Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Mat-Su), the Southcentral Foundation has been selected to receive a \$40 million direct loan to construct a primary care clinic. This project will provide a 93,652 square foot facility which will replace a small building which cannot accommodate the growing numbers of Alaska Natives moving to the Mat-Su Valley from rural Alaska villages. The new clinic will allow Native residents of the Mat-Su to travel to Wasilla for treatment instead of travelling between 50 and 100 miles each way to the city of Anchorage.

Recovery Act funding is also helping to provide assistance for public schools, For example, in rural North Carolina, Greene County has been selected to receive a \$13.6 million loan and a \$400,000 grant to construct a new energy efficient intermediate school. The school will accommodate 600 students and alleviate overcrowding problems at two local elementary schools.

The \$242.3 million in Recovery Act projects being announced today are funded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program and will be matched with \$58.4 million from other sources. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement. Below is a complete list of the selected recipients:

Alaska

- South Central Foundation Valley Native Primary Care: \$40,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a primary care clinic.

California

- Boys and Girls Clubs of The Sequoias: \$63,630 grant. The funding will be used to renovate a commercial kitchen.
- City of San Joaquin: \$162,690 grant. The funding will be used to renovate and expand a public works building.
- Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District: \$63,750 grant. The funding will be used to replace an obsolete cold food storage unit with a larger and more efficient unit.
- Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District: \$130,350 grant. The funding will be used to replace an obsolete cold food storage unit with a larger and more efficient unit.
- Marshall Medical Center: \$3,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to purchase medical equipment.
- Orange Cove Fire Protection District: \$41,900 grant. The funding will be used to retrofit a fire station.
- Palacios Community Center: \$90,000 grant. The funding will be used to renovate a community center to meet accessibility standards.
- San Jose Community & Bea Main Learning Center: \$27,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a fire sprinkler system for a community center.
- Southern Humboldt Community Health Care District: \$61,875 grant. The funding will be used to purchase health record management equipment for a critical access hospital.
- Strathmore Union Elementary School District: \$48,750 grant. The funding will be used to renovate an elementary school cafeteria.

Connecticut

- Town of Franklin: \$600,000 loan. The funding will be used to upgrade a roof.

Georgia

- Elbert County Boc: \$390,119 loan. The funding will be used to construct three new fire stations.
- Unified Government of Georgetown: \$303,000 loan. The funding will be used to purchase a building and renovate a facility for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operation.

Hawaii

- County of Maui: \$37,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to build a police station.
- Hale Kipa Services Complex and Residential Shelter Complex: \$12,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to build a community center.
- Kanu O Ka Aina Learning Ohana: \$10,500,000 loan. The funding will be used to expand the campus.

Illinois

- Village of Pulaski: \$18,469 grant. The funding will be used to replace a maintenance truck.
- Wilberton Township: \$35,750 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a backhoe.

Indiana

- Town of Roachdale: \$1,102,000 loan. The funding will be used to install polyethylene pipes.

Kansas

- Fredonia Regional Hospital: \$179,000 loan and \$79,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase two ambulances for emergency services.
- Rawlins County: \$7,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a hospital.
- Trego County Rural Fire District #1: \$141,550 loan and \$100,450 grant. The funding will be used to purchase two new fire trucks.

Kentucky

- City of Campbellsville: \$67,260 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a diesel ambulance.
- Southeast Floyd County Volunteer Fire Department: \$54,500 loan and \$100,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a new fire truck.

Maine

- Dexter Regional Development Corporation: \$40,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase equipment for a farmers' market.
- Indian Township Passamaquoddy Reservation Health Center: \$110,600 grant. The funding will be used to renovate a health care facility.
- The Progress Center, Inc.: \$84,000 grant. The funding will be used to renovate a community soup kitchen.

Massachusetts

- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe: \$1,656,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a building.
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe: \$10,505,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a building.
- Town of North Brookfield Fire Department: \$100,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase an aerial pumper truck.

Minnesota

- Kittson Memorial Hospital Association: \$499,000 loan. The funding will be used to replace water and steam pipes.
- Service Enterprises Inc. of Minnesota: \$335,000 loan. The funding will be used to renovate an adjoining property.

Mississippi

- Central Mississippi Inc.: \$591,500 loan. The funding will be used to renovate and expand a building.

Missouri

- City of Marston: \$69,150 grant. The funding will be used to improve parking at a community center.

- Sikeston Economic Development Corporation: \$4,186,200 loan. The funding will be used to construct a new public safety building.

Nebraska

- Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska: \$377,400 loan and \$162,600 grant. The funding will be used to upgrade and expand an administration building, health care center, and warehouse.

New Hampshire

- New London Hospital's Newport Health: \$71,100 grant. The funding will be used to purchase an electronic health record management system.
- Town of Hinsdale: \$17,500 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a dump truck.
- Valley Regional Healthcare, Inc.: \$16,100 grant. The funding will be used to purchase surgical equipment.

New York

- Berkshire Fire District: \$400,000 loan and \$100,000 grant. The funding will be used to construct a new fire station.

North Carolina

- Alleghany County Glade Creek School: \$520,000 loan and \$280,000 grant. The funding will be used to provide water and sewer services to a rural elementary school.
- Chatham County: \$25,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a building.
- Granville County: \$14,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to expand an emergency department, relocate laboratory and rehabilitation services.
- Greene County: \$13,600,000 loan and \$400,000 grant. The funding will be used to construct a new intermediate school.
- Haywood County: \$12,500,000 loan. The funding will be used to purchase, repair, and renovate a building
- Town of Aberdeen: \$1,144,900 loan and \$203,400 grant. The funding will be used to renovate and expand a fire department
- Town of Selma: \$110,000 loan and \$100,000 grant. The funding will be used to renovate and expand a police and fire station
- Western Piedmont Council of Government: \$3,000,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a government services building.

North Dakota

- Trinity Health: \$5,500,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a two-story multi-specialty health clinic building

Ohio

- Family Healthcare, Inc.: \$1,323,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a healthcare facility.
- Oxford Township: \$48,000 loan and \$36,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a road grader.

Pennsylvania

- Austin Volunteer Fire Company: \$110,500 loan and \$59,500 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a tanker.
- Beaver County Rehabilitation Center, Inc.: \$5,390,000 loan. The funding will be used to acquire and renovate a building.
- City of Dubois: \$100,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a dump truck and bucket truck.
- Conygham Township: \$23,700 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a plow truck.
- Girard Township: \$40,000 loan and \$78,000 grant. The funding will be used to resurface a road.
- Portage Township: \$94,989 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a new ladder and a truck with plowing and salting capability.
- The Municipal Authority of The City of Sunbury: \$207,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase vehicles to assist in maintaining water, sewer, and flood control systems.
- West Hazelton Borough: \$58,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a new dump truck.
- Williamston Borough: \$19,320 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a new dump truck.

Rhode Island

- Charlestown Fire District: \$2,851,330 loan. The funding will be used to construct a new fire station.

South Dakota

- Ogala Sioux (Lakota) Housing Authority: \$3,625,000 loan. The funding will be used to build a new "green" administration office for the Housing Authority.
- Whitewood Rural Fire Protection District: \$987,850 loan and \$177,150 grant. The funding will be used to build a new fire hall.

Texas

- City of Anson: \$30,830 loan and \$50,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a new ambulance.
- City of Early: \$34,500 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a pumper truck.

Utah

- Kane County: \$10,500,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a public safety building.

Virginia

- Rappahannock Area Agency On Aging, Inc.: \$1,296,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a building to enhance senior services.

Washington

- Pacific County Public Health Services: \$85,000 grant. The funding will be used to purchase a digital mammography machine.

Wyoming

- Alternative Elder Living Inc.: \$5,240,000 loan. The funding will be used to construct a new nursing home facility.

The USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages more than 40 housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a national network of 6,100 employees located in 500 state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$142 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.